

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-25, 27, and 28 are presented for further examination. Claims 11, 21, 23-25, and 27 have been amended. Claims 12, 22, and 26 have been canceled.

In the Office Action mailed December 10, 2004, the Examiner objected to claim 12 because it should depend on claim 11, not claim 1. The foregoing amendments have rendered this objection moot.

Claims 11 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,797 ("Maccarrone et al."). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,154,082 ("Bernard et al."). Claims 1-10 and 13-20 were found to be allowable. Claims 12, 22-24, and 26-28 were objected to but found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 12. Hence, claim 11 is now claim 12 rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim. Applicant respectfully submits claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claim 22. Hence, claim 21 is now allowable claim 22 rewritten into independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 21 and is also allowable for the reasons why claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of independent claim 21 as originally filed. Hence, allowable claim 24 has been rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and is thus in condition for allowance.

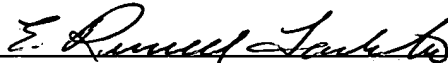
Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claim 26. Hence, claim 25 is now allowable dependent claim 26 rewritten into independent form and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 25. Thus, allowable claim 27 has been rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the base claim from which it depends and is therefore allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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